

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO FIRST 5 SHASTA**

**(Redding, CA)** – A representative of the education field has been appointed by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors to serve as a Commissioner to First 5 Shasta, the Shasta Children and Families First Commission. Karen J. Kratzer, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services at the Shasta County Office of Education, fills the Commission seat vacated recently by Barry Reed. Reed resigned from the Commission upon his retirement from the Cascade Union Elementary School District.

Kratzer brings over 20 years experience in the finance and education fields to the Commission. “Karen’s expertise in education, combined with her finance background, will be a major strength for First 5 Shasta,” said Muffy Berryhill, executive director of First 5 Shasta. “Given her keen interest in the well-being of young children, she’ll serve as a strong advocate for our youngest residents and their families.”

Kratzer moved to Shasta County in 1989 to serve as director of business services at Anderson Union High School District. Previously, she worked and lived in Eureka and received a degree in business administration from California State University, Sacramento. As a member of First 5 Shasta, Kratzer will assist in making decisions about the distribution and implementation of the county’s Proposition 10 revenues.

Research shows that a child’s brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child’s growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. In the last year, First 5 Shasta invested over \$1 million in Prop. 10 revenues in programs and services that meet local needs.

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